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RNR 097

NIGHTLEAD SOVIET:

BY ROBERT EVANS

MOSCOW, JULY 26, REUTER -- MRS YEKATERINA FURTSEVA, THE ONLY WOMAN EVER TO REACH THE TOP SOVIET HIERARCHY, WAS TODAY CONFIRMED IN HER POST AS CULTURE MINISTER, ALTHOUGH IT WAS RUMORED ONLY RECENTLY THAT SHE WAS IN DANGER OF LOSING HER JOB.

TOGETHER WITH ALL THE OTHER MINISTERS IN PRIME MINISTER ALEXEI KOSYGIN'S PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, SHE RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, THE COUNTRY'S PARLIAMENT, TO SERVE A FURTHER FOUR YEAR TERM.

MRS FURTSEVA, 63, HAS BEEN CULTURE MINISTER SINCE 1960. EARLIER THIS YEAR IT LOOKED AS THOUGH HER PUBLIC CAREER WAS COMING TO AN END IN DISGRACE.

SOURCES IN MOSCOW SAID MRS FURTSEVA WAS REPRIMANDED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR BUILDING A LUXURIOUS DACHA -- COUNTRY VILLA -- OUTSIDE THE CITY AT A KNOCK-DOWN PRICE IN HER DAUGHTER'S NAME.

RUMORS OF HER PENDING DISMISSAL WERE FED BY THE FACT THAT SHE WAS NOT CHOSEN TO STAND AS A CANDIDATE AT THE JUNE ELECTIONS TO THE SUPREME SOVIET.

MORE 1310

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NIGHTLEAD SOVIET 2 MOSCOW:

MR KOSYGIN, WHO IS 70, WAS HIMSELF RE-ELECTED FOR A FURTHER FOUR YEARS AS WAS PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNYY, 71.

IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT BUT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ONE OR OTHER OF THEM WANTED TO RETIRE.

IN A SPEECH FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT LIST, MR KOSYGIN TOLD THE 1,517 DEPUTIES HIS MINISTERS WOULD CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION ON FURTHER IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GROWING ECONOMY.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET -- WHICH MEETS TWICE A YEAR -- IS EXPECTED TO BE IN DECEMBER, WHEN THE STATE PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 1975 WILL BE APPROVED.

REUTER 1311

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